

REMARKS

Claims 1,15 and 37 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 15, 18-20, 37, and 39-41 are pending.

Claims 1, 15 and 37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hughes, U.S. Patent No. 6,122,372, in view of Yeager, U.S. Patent No. 6,167,402, in further view of Cloutier et al, U.S. Patent No. 6,535,586 (hereinafter "Cloutier").

The rejection is respectfully traversed. Neither Hughes, Yeager nor Cloutier teach "computing a message tag from a subset of the plurality of message properties at least in part by concatenating a message sender and a message sender submission time and applying a hash algorithm to the resulting string" as recited in the amended claims 1, 15 and 37.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's assertion:

"Specifically, Cloutier discloses concatenating message properties to generate a message tag [column 6 <<lines 5-35>>: Cloutier discloses computing a checksum by appending the data from the Date and From header fields of the message."

– 9/22/2009 Office Action, p. 5 third paragraph

In the first paragraph of column 6, Cloutier teaches:

"In order to alert a user to the receipt of a new message, a unique code signature must be generated so that the user can retrieve the message from a remote location. A suitable hashing function is chosen to map a particular message to a unique identifying code. The paramount criteria in choosing a hashing function is its ability, given a domain, to uniformly distribute its output in a numerical interval. According to one embodiment of the present invention, a code signature or checksum is generated using a hashing function, which takes as its arguments the Date and From header fields of a message. For example, in one embodiment, the following C code is used to generate a unique code signature from the "Date" and "From" fields of an RFC 822 format message.

```

int chksum(header *palert) {

    unsigned int uid, crunch;

    char *p, *ret;

    char month_names[ ]="January February March April May June July August
September October November December";

    month_no =( strstr( month_names, palert->date-> month)-month_names)/4;

    uid = palert --> pdate --> minute + palert-> hour * 60 + palert->pdate->
    daty*60*24+month_no * 60*24*31 + (palert->pdate-> year - 1900)*60*24*31*12;

    for (crunch=0, p=palert->from; p && *p; p++)
        crunch^= *p;

    uid += crunch << 26;

    ret=malloc(25);

    sprintf(ret, "%u", uid);

    return ret;

}/* end of mk_uid( ) */

” -- Cloutier, column 6, first paragraph, emphasis added

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Nowhere in Cloutier is “*concatenating a message sender and a message sender submission time and applying a hash algorithm to the resulting string*” (emphasis added) taught. Cloutier discusses “a hashing function” merely as taking as its arguments “the Date and From header fields of a message” above. In fact, it is clear from the C code that no concatenation occurs prior to hashing and instead Cloutier simply:

Step 1. Hashes the From field:

```
“for (crunch=0, p=palert->from; p && *p; p++) crunch^= *p;”
```

Step 2. Concatenates the result with the Date field:

```
“uid += crunch << 26;”
```

Concatenating a message sender and a message sender submission time and applying a hash algorithm to the resulting string is **not** the same as applying a hash function to a From field and concatenating the result with a Date field. Support for the amendment may be found in the above-captioned application without limitation as paragraph 0023. As such, claims 1, 15, and 37 are believed allowable.


Claims 3, 4 and 7, which depend from claim 1; claims 18-20, which depend from claim 15; and claims 39-41, which depend from claim 37 are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 12/22/09



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